

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-28 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-18 having been canceled and Claims 19-28 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (6,242,825) in view of Ford (2,320,922) and Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. To expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 1-19 have been canceled and replaced by new Claims 19-28 which each include subject matter stated in Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 indicated as being allowable. New Claims 19-28 do not specifically state "the second glue provided in an amount sufficiently small so as not to inhibit impregnation of impregnating resin, yet sufficiently large so as to impede outflow of said inorganic particles" added to the independent claims by the Amendment filed Nov. 27, 2007, since this language is believed to be superseded by the express recitation of materials and/or ranges for the second glue component stated in the newly submitted Claims 19-28. Otherwise, Claims 19-23 correspond to respective combinations of Claim 1 with Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12, and Claims 24-28 correspond to respective combinations of Claims 2 with Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12. No new matter has been added.

In view of the submission of new Claims 19-28, Claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to seek the claim scope stated in the canceled

independent claims in a subsequent application claiming priority to the present application under 35 USC §120.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the indication of allowable subject matter, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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